(iv) Special attention in planning projects for benefiting disadvantaged groups of the society;

(v) Water transfer to needy areas based on a national perspective;

(vi) Prioritising water use and provision of drinking water while planning multi-purpose project;

(vii) Integration of land and water use policies.

(viii) Maximising availability of water.

(ix) Water Management including maintenance and modernisation;

(x) Ground Water Development.

(xi) Rationalisation of Water rates to convey the scarcity value.

(xii) Participation of farmers and voluntary agencies.

(xiii) Flood Control and Management.

(xiv) Drought Management.

(xv) Intensifying research efforts in various areas relating to water management; and

(xvi) Training aspects in water resources development.

(c) The State Governments are implementing the National Water Policy based on the directions issued by the Central Government in this regard. Guidelines were issued to the States/ Union Territories for preparation of river basin master plans and for integration of drinking water supply system in irrigation and multi-purpose projects. For operationalisation of the National Water Policy, the National Water Board was constituted in September, 1990 which has held seven meetings and one special meeting so far and reviewed progress made on implementation of National Water Policy.

(d) and (e) A few hurdles due to inter-State water disputes and financial constraints are faced in implementation of policy in all details. Steps are being taken to resolve inter-State water disputes through negotiations and Tribunals.

Direct funding to the district councils of Meghalaya

1697. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state-

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the District Councils in Meghalaya created under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India are facing financial crisis.

(b) whether Government have received representations from the District Councils for direct funding; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to amend the Sixth Schedule for providing direct funding to the District Councils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Certain District Councils in Meghalaya have, in the past, suggested direct funding of Autonomous District Councils by the Central Governments.

The Centra] Government provides funds to the State Government for meeting the requirements of various Departments including the Autonomous District Councils. These funds are in addition to the State's own resources. Proposals of the Autonomous District Councils are taken up by the State Government representatives with the Planning Commission during discussions preceding the allocation of Plan funds. No proposal for amending the Sixth Schedule to provide direct funding to the District Councils is under consideration.

New Technology for Jute Products

1698. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA) Calcutta has developed technology for producing hydrocarbon free jute bag, jute composite

and sale yarn which have much export potential;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been made by his Ministry to utilise this expertise of IJIRA for promoting export of these jute products; and

(c) whether any financial allocation has been made for promoting this technological expertise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. IJIRA Calcutta has developed such technology (hydrocarbon free jute bags) and it has export potential.

(b) and (c) IJIRA interacts with the industry for such promotional activities utilising internal resources.

Sick Textile Mills in Punjab

1699. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of textile mills are sick in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) AND (b) As on 31.5.96, 6 mills in Punjab were registered with BIFR as sick namely: 1. Khanna Silk Mills 2 Punjab Spg & Wvg. Mills Ltd.
3. Punjab Spg. & Wvg. Mills
4. JCT Fibres Ltd.
5. Punjab State Hosiery & Knitwear Dev.
6. Shri Lalit Fabrics (P) Ltd.

(c) Government has set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival.

सड़क विकास की योजना

1700. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में सड़क विकास की कोई योजना बनाई है;

(ख) क्या सन् 2001 तक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की दोहरीकृत सड़कों की लम्बाई 45,530 कि०मी० और सिंगल लेन मार्गों की लम्बाई 18,500 कि०मी० करने का प्रस्ताव है; और

(ग) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश में कितनी आंतरिक लम्बाई की सड़कों को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग घोषित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है और इसके लिये कितने किलोमीटर लम्बी सड़क स्वीकृत की गई है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी. जी. वेंकटरामन): (क) यह मंत्रालय मुख्यतः राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के विकास के लिए उत्तरदायी है। अन्य सभी सड़कें संबंधित राज्य सरकारों के कार्य क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आती हैं। जहां तक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का संबंध है, उनका विकास एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है और सुधार कार्य विभिन्न पंचवर्षीय/वार्षिक योजनाओं के जरिए किए जाते हैं।

(ख) इस समय ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

(ग) मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में किसी राज्यीय सड़क को राष्ट्रीय राजममार्ग घोषित नहीं किया गया है और न ही ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है।

Financial assistance for revival of DTC

1701. SHRI JAY ANT KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest status report on financial aspect of Delhi Transport Corporation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Corporation has approached the Union Government to extend financial assistance for its revival;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a comprehensive plan for the Corporation is under the consideration of Government; and